

Application No. 10/070,776
Filed: April 8, 2002
TC Art Unit: 3635
Confirmation No.: 9662

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Rail section for stretched fabric false partitions, said section comprising at least one groove defined by two lateral walls and a base wall, said groove being designed to contain at least one edge of the stretched fabric after it has been mounted in the section, characterised in that said rail section being of a single piece, said rail section comprises comprising a joint, characterized in that said joint keeps for keeping the edge of the stretched fabric pinched in said groove between the joint and an internal face of one of said lateral walls, said joint being made of a different material having a property of flexibility differing from that of the material constituting the walls of said groove.

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2. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 1, characterised in that the cross-section of said groove is in general shaped like a V or U, the extreme portions of the lateral walls of the groove opposite the base wall of the groove defining an opening at least partially sealed off by the joint ~~for~~ retaining the edge of the stretched fabric.

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3. (Previously Presented) Rail section according to claim 2,
characterised in that the joint comprises a single lip protruding
from one of the lateral walls of said groove, known as a joint
support wall, said lip comprising an internal face opposite the
base wall of the groove and an opposing external face.

4. (Previously Presented) Rail section according to claim 3,
characterised in that the lip joint is an approximately flat
joint, the internal face of the lip being approximately parallel
to its external face.

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5. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 4,
characterised in that the single lip of the joint extends
~~approximately perpendicularly perpendicular~~ to its support wall.

6. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 4,
characterised in that the lip has a free edge of the lip that is
placed inside the groove.

7. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 4,
characterised in that the lip has a free edge of the lip that is

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~~approximately~~ in support against the lateral wall of the groove placed opposite the joint support wall.

8. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 3, characterised in that the joint has a sole lip of the joint that extends along an angle of less than 65° with respect to its support wall.

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9. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 8, characterised in that the lip has a free edge of the lip that is placed inside the groove.

10. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 9, characterised in that the free edge of the lip is ~~approximately~~ in support against the lateral wall of the groove placed opposite the joint support wall.

11. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 3, characterised in that the support wall of the single lip projects from the has an extreme portion, of its support wall the single lip of the joint projecting from said extreme portion.

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12. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 1,
characterised in that the lip of the joint comprises an internal
face orientated towards the base wall of the groove and an
external opposing face, the internal face and the external face of
the joint not being parallel to each other.

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13. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 12,
characterised in that the internal face of the single lip of the
joint extends approximately perpendicular to its support wall.

14. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 12,
characterised in that the lip has a free edge of the lip that is
placed inside the groove.

15. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 12,
characterised in that the lip has a free edge of the lip that is
approximately in support against the lateral wall of the groove
placed opposite the support wall of the joint.

16. (Previously Presented) Rail section according to claim 12,
characterised in that the internal face of the single lip of the

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joint extends along an angle less than 65° with respect to its support wall.

17. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 16, characterised in that the lip has a free edge of the lip that is placed inside the groove.

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18. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 17, characterised in that the free edge of lip is approximately in support against the lateral wall of the groove placed opposite the joint support wall.

19. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 12, characterised in that the support wall of the single lip projects from the has an extreme portion, of its support wall the single lip of the joint projecting from said extreme portion.

20. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 12, characterised in that the joint has a sole lip, the external face of the sole lip of the joint extends approximately extending perpendicular to the lateral walls of the groove.

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21. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 1,
characterised in that the joint comprises two lips, projecting
from one of the lateral walls of said groove, said joint support
wall, namely a first lip known as a support lip, and a second lip
known as a masking lip, the internal face of the first lip
orientated towards the base wall of the groove being slanted with
respect to the joint support wall, the external face of the second
lip opposite the base wall of the groove being approximately
perpendicular to the joint support wall.

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22. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 21,
characterised in that the first lip has a free edge of the first
lip that is in support against the lateral wall of the groove
placed opposite the joint support wall.

23. (Previously Presented) Rail section according to claim 21,
characterised in that the internal face of the first lip is
slanted by an angle of less than 65° with respect to the joint
support wall.

24. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 21,
characterised in that the support wall of the joint has an the two

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~~lips project from the extreme portion, of the joint support wall~~
the two lips projecting from said extreme portion.

25. (Previously Presented) Rail section according to claim 1,
characterised in that the joint comprises two lips, each lip
projecting from one of the lateral walls of said groove and
comprising an internal face opposite the base wall of the groove
and an external opposing face.

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26. (Previously Presented) Rail section according to claim 25,
characterised in that the two lips are approximately symmetrical
with respect to a plane perpendicular to the base wall of the
groove and placed halfway from the two lateral walls of the
groove.

27. (Previously Presented) Rail section according to claim 25,
characterised in that the internal face of at least one of the two
lips is slanted by an angle of less than 65° with respect to the
lateral support wall of said lip.

28. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 25,
characterised in that the external face of at least one of the two

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lips extends approximately perpendicular to the support wall of said lip.

29. (Previously Presented) Rail section according to claim 2, characterised in that the lateral walls of the groove are made of an approximately rigid material selected from the group comprising metal alloys and rigid polymers, the joint being made of a substantially flexible material, such as a flexible polymer.

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30. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 1, characterised in that it—the rail section is obtained by co-extrusion or duplicate moulding of different materials, namely a first material constituting the substantially rigid walls of the groove, and a second material constituting the joint.

31. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 30, characterised in that the walls of the groove are made of a rigid PVC-based material, possibly recycled, the joint being made of a flexible PVC.

32. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 1, characterised in that it—the rail section comprises an external

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wing from which protrudes perpendicularly is a core bearing projecting an internal wing, said internal wing being approximately parallel to the lower portion of the external wing, the internal wing and the lower section of the external wing forming the lateral walls of said groove, the core of the rail section constituting the base wall of said groove, the upper portion of the external wing comprising a C-shaped groove able to receive means for assembling the two portions of the butt-rail sections.

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33. (Previously Presented) False wall comprising a stretched fabric fixed along its edges to a support fixed onto the walls of a room, said support comprising a rail formed of portions of sections as shown in claim 1, characterised in that the edge of said fabric is provided with an excess thickness taking support against the internal face of the joint.

34. (Currently Amended) False wall as shown in claim 33 and used as a false ceiling, the groove for the rail section being oriented downwards, the lateral walls of the groove being approximately vertical, a first lateral wall of the groove being mounted close to a wall and the second lateral wall of the groove being situated

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towards the inside of the room, the first lateral wall having a lower extreme portion, the joint extending projecting from the said lower extreme portion of the first lateral wall, the excess thickness of the edge of the fabric being forcefully introduced upwards between the free edge of the joint and the second lateral wall of the groove so that said excess thickness takes support both against the internal face of the joint and the internal face of the second lateral wall of the groove, the fabric stretched horizontally being thus deviated upwards so as to penetrate into the groove of the rail section whilst taking support on the lower extreme edge of the second lateral wall of the groove.

35. (Currently Amended) False wall according to claim 34, characterised in that the two lateral walls of the groove have approximately identical heights, the external face of the joint being placed approximately perpendicular to said lateral walls, and thus in the continuity of the stretched fabric.

36. (Currently Amended) False wall according to claim 34, characterised in that the two lateral walls of the groove have different heights, the first lateral wall of the groove close to the wall being of smaller height than the second lateral wall, the

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external face of the joint being slanted by an angle so as to form a continuity solution between the extension plane of the stretched fabric and the said lower extremity of the first lateral wall.

37. (Currently Amended) False wall according to claim 34,
characterised in that the external face of the joint is made of a material exhibiting a colour, tint or brightness identical to or coordinated with those of the stretched fabric, the rest of the rail section being of standard colour, tint and brightness.

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38. (Currently Amended) False wall according to claim 34,
characterised in that the lower extremity of the second lateral wall of the groove under which the stretched fabric takes support has a lower extremity that is rounded.

39. (Currently Amended) False wall according to claim 34,
characterised in that at the false wall comprises two coplanar horizontally stretched fabrics, the edges of said two stretched fabrics being retained inside a groove of a rail section fixed under the ceiling of a room, said rail section comprising an upper horizontal core prolonged downwards by a vertical central wing and two other lower horizontal wings situated on both sides of the

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vertical central wing, the horizontal wings constituting the lateral walls of two opposing grooves and a joint support for retaining the excess thicknesses of the edges of the two stretched fabrics.

40. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 5, characterised in that:

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the lip has a free edge of the lip that is placed inside the groove;

the free edge of the lip is approximately in support against the lateral wall of the groove placed opposite the joint support wall.

41. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 4, characterised in that:

the sole lip of the joint extends along an angle of less than 65° with respect to its support wall;

the lip has a free edge of the lip that is placed inside the groove;

the free edge of the lip is approximately in support against the lateral wall of the groove placed opposite the joint support wall;

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the support wall has an extreme portion, the single lip projects projecting from the said extreme portion of its support wall.

42. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 3, characterised in that:

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the lip of the joint comprises an internal face orientated towards the base wall of the groove and an external opposing face, the internal face and the external face of the joint not being parallel to each another;

the internal face of the single lip of the joint extends approximately perpendicular to its support wall;

the lip has a free edge of the lip that is placed inside the groove;

the free edge of the lip is approximately in support against the lateral wall of the groove placed opposite the support wall of the joint.

43. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 13, characterised in that:

the internal face of the single lip of the joint extends along an angle less than 65° with respect to its support wall;

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the free edge of the lip is placed inside the groove;
the free edge of the lip is approximately in support against
the lateral wall of the groove placed opposite the joint support
wall;

the support wall has an extreme portion, the single lip
~~projects projecting from the said extreme portion of its support~~
wall;

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the external face of the sole single lip of the joint extends
approximately perpendicular to the lateral walls of the groove.

44. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 2,
characterised in that:

the joint comprises two lips, projecting from one of the
lateral walls of said groove, said joint support wall, namely a
first lip known as a support lip, and a second lip known as a
masking lip, the internal face of the first lip orientated towards
the base wall of the groove being slanted with respect to the
joint support wall, the external face of the second lip opposite
the base wall of the groove being ~~approximately~~ perpendicular to
the joint support wall;

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the first lip has a free edge of the first lip that is in support against the lateral wall of the groove placed opposite the joint support wall;

the internal face of the first lip is slanted by an angle of less than 65° with respect to the joint support wall;

the joint support wall has an extreme portion, the two lips project projecting from the said extreme portion of the joint support wall.

45. (Currently Amended) Rail section according to claim 2, characterised in that:

the joint comprises two lips, each lip projecting from one of the lateral walls of said groove and comprising an internal face opposite the base wall of the groove and an external opposing face;

the two lips are approximately symmetrical with respect to a plane perpendicular to the base wall of the groove and placed halfway from the two lateral walls of the groove;

the internal face of at least one of the two lips is slanted by an angle of less than 65° with respect to the lateral support wall of said lip;

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the external face of at least one of the two lips extends approximately perpendicular to the support wall of said lip;

the lateral walls of the groove are made of an approximately rigid material selected from the group comprising metal alloys and rigid polymers, the joint being made of a substantially flexible material, such as a flexible polymer;

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it—the rail section is obtained by co-extrusion or duplicate moulding of different materials, namely a first material constituting the substantially rigid walls of the groove, and a second material constituting the joint;

the walls of the groove are made of a rigid PVC-based material, possibly recycled, the joint being made of a flexible PVC;

it—the rail section comprises an external wing from which protrudes perpendicularly is a core bearing projecting an internal wing, said internal wing being approximately parallel to the lower portion of the external wing, the internal wing and the lower section of the external wing forming the lateral walls of said groove, the core of the rail section constituting the base wall of said groove, the upper portion of the external wing comprising a C-shaped groove able to receive means for assembling the two portions of the butt rail sections.

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46. (Currently Amended) False wall as shown in claim 33 and used as a false ceiling, wherein:

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the groove for the rail section being oriented downwards, the lateral walls of the groove being approximately vertical, a first lateral wall of the groove being mounted close to a wall and the second lateral wall of the groove being situated towards the inside of the room, the first lateral wall having a lower extreme portion, the joint extending projecting from the said lower extreme portion of the first lateral wall, the excess thickness of the edge of the fabric being forcefully introduced upwards between the free edge of the joint and the second lateral wall of the groove so that said excess thickness takes support both against the internal face of the joint and the internal face of the second lateral wall of the groove, the fabric stretched horizontally being thus deviated upwards so as to penetrate into the groove of the rail section whilst taking support on the lower extreme edge of the second lateral wall of the groove;

the two lateral walls of the groove have one of approximately identical heights, the external face of the joint being placed approximately perpendicular to said lateral walls, and thus in the continuity of the stretched fabric and different

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heights, the first lateral wall of the groove close to the wall being of smaller height than the second lateral wall, the external face of the joint being slanted by an angle so as to form a continuity solution between the extension plane of the stretched fabric and the lower extremity of the first lateral wall;

the external face of the joint is made of a material exhibiting a colour, tint or brightness identical to, or coordinated with those of the stretched fabric, the rest of the rail section being of standard colour, tint and brightness.

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47. (Previously Presented) False wall according to claim 46, characterised in that the lower extremity of the second lateral wall of the groove under which the stretched fabric takes support is rounded.

48. (Currently Amended) False wall according to claim 46, characterised in that it the false wall comprises two coplanar horizontally stretched fabrics, the edges of said two stretched fabrics being retained inside a groove of a rail section fixed under the ceiling of a room, said rail section comprising an upper horizontal core prolonged downwards by a vertical central wing and two other lower horizontal wings situated on both sides of the

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vertical central wing, the horizontal wings constituting the
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lateral walls of two opposing grooves and a joint support for
retaining the excess thicknesses of the edges of the two stretched
fabrics.

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